Increase in Drug Abuse

1649. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of people affected by drug abuse is on the increase;

(b) whether the main section of population affected by this drug abuse belong to the poor section of our society;

(c) whether India is not merely a transit country for illicit drug traffic but is also becoming a significant consumer; and

(d) if so, the steps Government have taken to deal with this menace and how effective they have been?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) to (c) The different studies and reports indicate to an increasing incidence of drug abuse amongst certain marginalized/vulnerable sections of the society including street children, commercial sex workers, transport workers, slum dwellers, opium growing regions, border areas etc. To that extent it is a reported fact that the number of people affected by drug abuse is on the increase and population affected belong to poor sections of our society and India is also becoming a consumer.

(d) Recognizing drug abuse as psycho-socio-medical problem, which can be best handled in community settings, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has been implementing the Scheme for Prevention of Alcoholism and Substance (Drugs) Abuse. Under the Scheme, grant in aid is provided to the voluntary organisations for implementing community-based programmes on awareness generation, preventive education, counseling and identification, detoxification, rehabilitation and after-care of the addicts. At the end of the cyar 1999-2000, the Ministry provided assistance to 368 organizations for operating 452 centres, (160 counselling and Awareness centres and 292 Treatment-cum-Rehabilitation centres) all over the country. The Ministry of health and Family Welfare are also supporting around 90 De-addiction centres through Government

hospitals. Besides the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has been utilizing media channels-electronic and print—for disseminating information amongst the masses.

Comprehensive Insurance Scheme for People below Poverty Line

1650. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that government have introduced a comprehensive insurance scheme for people living below the poverty line;

(b) whether this scheme would cover over 100 million people in this category; and

(c) if so, why can't the scheme be extended to the full 32 percent of the pupulation who are living below the poverty line?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) to (c) The Janashree Bima Yojana introduced this year is designed to provide life insurance coverage to persons below the poverty line, in rural and urban areas, and even persons who are marginally above the poverty line provided they belong to identified occupational groups.

Allocation of Funds to Ambedkar Foundation

1651. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the allocation of funds to Ambedkar Foundation in each of the last five years, year-wise;

(b) the present activities and the extent of unutilized funds in each year of the said period; and

(c) the main objectives of the fund and the steps taken or being taken to effectively utilize the fund?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF